

REMARKS

Formalities

With this Amendment, Applicants amend Claims 1, 8, 10, 15, 19, 20, and 26, cancel Claims 12 and 28, and add new Claim 30. Therefore, Claims 1-11, 13-27, 29, and 30 are all the claims pending in the present Application.

IDS. Applicants note that the Examiner has not returned a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 submitted with the IDS of May 18, 2004. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner provide a copy of the PTO Form 1449 in the next Office correspondence.

New Claim 30

With this Amendment, Applicants add new Claim 30 in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections, §112

Claims 8, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite.

Regarding Claim 8, the Examiner notes that there is no embodiment having a prism in front of three dichroic prisms. With this Amendment, Applicants amend Claim 8 for purposes of clarity and to correct a typographical error.

Regarding Claims 19 and 20, with this Amendment Applicants add new Claim 30 and amend Claims 19 and 20 to depend from Claim 30.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the §112 rejections of Claims 8, 19, and 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Rejections §103(a)

The Examiner indicates that Claims 10, 12, 26, and 28 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

Claims 1-5, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, U.S. Patent No. 6,288,815 (“Lambert”), in view of Shibatani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,332,684 (“Shibatani”). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Shibatani and Kobayashi, U.S. Patent NO. 6,057,894 (“Kobayashi”). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Shibatani and Kanayama et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0095213 (“Kanayama”). Claims 15, 21, 25, 27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Hwang, U.S. Patent No. 6,588,906 (“Hwang”). Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Hwang and Kobayashi. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Hwang and Kanayama. Claims 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Hwang and Itoh, U.S. patent No. 6,667,834 (“Itoh”). Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lambert, in view of Shibatani and Shimzu et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0081178 (“Shimzu”).

With this Amendment, Applicants amend allowable Claims 10 and 26 into independent form.

Also with this Amendment, Applicants amend independent Claims 1 and 15 to include the allowable limitations of Claims 12 and 28, respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the cited art and that Claims 2-9, 11, 13, and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1 and that Claims 16-18, 21-25, 27, and 29 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 15. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/761,420

Q74905

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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